

BOOK REVIEW

REVIEW - Stable Isotopes. Proceedings of the Third International Conference. E.R. Klein and P.D. Klein (Eds).
New York, San Francisco and London, Academic Press,
1979, Pp. 627 \$39.50.

This text contains a wealth of information concerning all aspects of working with stable isotopes and stable isotopically labelled compounds, and is the Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Stable Isotopes held in May 1978 at Oak Brook, Illinois, USA.

A total of 229 scientists, all experts in their fields, have contributed to the 7 major sections of the text. Section 1, consists of 10 articles on Methodology describing various approaches to the syntheses and biosyntheses of compounds labelled with stable isotopes; Section 2, consists of 14 articles and discusses the important aspects of instrumentation and measurement techniques suitably illustrated by practical examples; Sections 3,4 and 5, consisting of 35 articles provide numerous applications of stable isotopically labelled compounds for environmental studies, biochemical research and pharmacology respectively. Sections 6 and 7, consisting of 14 articles, are devoted to clinical applications involving the isotopic measurements on respiratory carbon dioxide, and the uses of labelled compounds for protein metabolism. The main emphasis is not only on compounds labelled with deuterium and carbon-13 but also those labelled with nitrogen-15 and oxygen-18.

Each of the 73 articles in the text has a good selection of up-to-date references including some to 1978. However, four of the articles in Section 2 are only in the form of abstracts. A total of 833 references are presented and usefully with their full titles.

The articles are all of a high standard, well written and presented in a very readable form. The editors are to be congratulated in producing such a good text which must provide the scientific community with the most up-to-date reference for information relating to stable isotopically labelled compounds. The text is recommended to anyone currently using compounds labelled with stable isotopes or who are contemplating their use.

A minor criticism is that the inclusion of a separate compound index would have been useful for quick reference. Priced at \$39.50 one is getting good value.

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